

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A fiber reinforced polymeric wall covering material comprising:

a non-woven fiber tissue or mat having an inner side and an outer side including a surface; and

a thermoplastic polymer coating covering the surface of said outer side of said non-woven fiber tissue or mat in a continuous fashion to reduce significantly the porosity of [[the wall covering]] the surface of the non-woven fiber tissue or mat to which the thermoplastic polymer coating is applied, said thermoplastic polymer coating providing a regular, roller paintable visible outer surface on said non-woven fiber tissue or mat, said continuous coating being free of random discontinuities that increase porosity and which are susceptible to creating visible irregularities when the surface is roller painted.

2. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 36, wherein an outer surface of said thermoplastic polymer coating has a surface tension of at least approximately 30 dynes/cm.

3. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 36, wherein said thermoplastic polymer coating is applied to said non-woven tissue or mat at between approximately 5 and 200 g/m².

4. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 36, wherein said thermoplastic polymer coating is applied to said non-woven tissue mat at between approximately 30 and 60 g/m².

5. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 36, wherein said thermoplastic polymer coating comprises a matrix polymer resin selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene, high density polyethylene, polypropylene, and combinations thereof.

6. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 5, wherein said thermoplastic polymer coating further comprises a mineral filler to create a non-smooth outer surface, wherein said mineral filler comprises between approximately 1 and 50% by weight of said thermoplastic polymer coating.

7. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 6, wherein said mineral filler is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, mica, talcum, clay, and combinations thereof.

8. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 36, wherein said wall covering material has a water vapor transmission rate of at least approximately 1 gram/m² per day as measured by DIN Standard 52615 utilizing a wet cup process.

9. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 5, wherein said thermoplastic polymer coating further comprises an opacifying agent, wherein the amount of said opacifying agent in said thermoplastic polymer coating is sufficient to create an opacity in the wall covering of between approximately 70 and 90%.

10. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 9, wherein said opacifying agent comprises titanium dioxide.

11. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 36, wherein said non-woven fiber tissue or mat is comprised of predominantly a first fiber type, said first fiber type selected from the group consisting of inorganic fibers and mineral fibers.

12. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 36, wherein said non-woven fiber tissue or mat comprises a non-woven fiber or mat having an area weight of approximately 20 to 60 g/m².

13. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 36, wherein said polymeric material comprises approximately a 45/5/50 by weight mixture of high-density polyethylene, titanium dioxide, and a dispersion, said dispersion comprising ground calcium carbonate and ground titanium dioxide in high density polyethylene.

14 - 21. (cancelled)

22. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 36, wherein said thermoplastic polymer coating is applied to said non-woven tissue or mat at between approximately 50 and 200 g/m².

23. (previously presented) A fiber reinforced polymeric wall covering material comprising:

a non-woven fiber tissue or mat having an inner side and an outer side;

a thermoplastic polymer coating applied to said outer side of said non-woven fiber tissue or mat, said thermoplastic polymer coating providing a regular outer surface on said non-woven fiber tissue or mat; and

a layer of paint roller-applied to said thermoplastic polymer coating.

24. (previously presented) The fiber reinforced polymeric wall covering material of claim 23, wherein said outer surface of said thermoplastic polymer coating has a surface tension of at least approximately 30 dynes/cm.

25. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 23, wherein said thermoplastic polymer coating is applied to said non-woven tissue or mat at between approximately 5 and 200 g/m².

26. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 23, wherein said thermoplastic polymer coating is applied to said non-woven tissue mat at between approximately 30 and 60 g/m².

27. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 23, wherein said thermoplastic polymer coating comprises a matrix polymer resin selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene, high density polyethylene, polypropylene, and combinations thereof.

28. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 27, wherein said thermoplastic polymer coating further comprises a mineral filler to create a non-smooth outer surface, wherein said mineral filler comprises between approximately 1 and 50% by weight of said thermoplastic polymer coating.

29. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 28, wherein said mineral filler is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, mica, talcum, clay, and combinations thereof.

30. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 23, wherein said wall covering material has a water vapor transmission rate of at least approximately 1 gram/m² per day as measured by DIN Standard 52615 utilizing a wet cup process.

31. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 27, wherein said thermoplastic polymer coating further comprises an opacifying agent, wherein the amount of said opacifying agent in said thermoplastic polymer coating is sufficient to create an opacity in the wall covering of between approximately 70 and 90%.

32. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 31, wherein said opacifying agent comprises titanium dioxide.

33. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 23, wherein said non-woven fiber tissue or mat is comprised of predominantly a first

fiber type, said first fiber type selected from the group consisting of inorganic fibers and mineral fibers.

34. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 23, wherein said non-woven fiber tissue or mat comprises a non-woven fiber or mat having an area weight of approximately 20 to 60 g/m².

35. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises approximately a 45/5/50 by weight mixture of high-density polyethylene, titanium dioxide, and a dispersion, said dispersion comprising of ground calcium carbonate and ground titanium dioxide in high density polyethylene.

36. (previously presented) A fiber reinforced polymeric wall covering material comprising:

a non-woven rigid fiber tissue or mat having an inner side and an outer side; and

a thermoplastic polymer coating applied to said outer side of said rigid non-woven fiber tissue or mat.

37. (previously presented) A fiber reinforced polymeric wall covering material comprising:

a non-woven fiber tissue or mat having an inner side and an outer side; and

a thermoplastic polymer coating applied to said outer side of said rigid non-woven fiber tissue or mat and having a roller paintable, visible outer surface with a surface tension of at least approximately 30 dynes/cm.

38. (previously presented) A fiber reinforced polymeric wall covering material comprising:

a non-woven fiber tissue or mat having an inner side and an outer side; and

a thermoplastic polymer coating applied to said outer side of said rigid non-woven fiber tissue or mat and providing a roller paintable, visible outer surface;

wherein said polymeric coating comprises approximately a 45/5/50 by weight mixture of high-density polyethylene, an opacifying agent, and a dispersion, said dispersion comprising ground calcium carbonate and ground titanium dioxide in high density polyethylene.

39. (previously presented) The polymeric wall covering material of claim 38, wherein the opacifying agent is titanium dioxide.

40. (previously presented) A fiber reinforced polymeric wall covering material comprising:

a non-woven fiber tissue or mat having a visible inner side and an outer side; and

a thermoplastic polymer coating applied to said outer side of said non-woven fiber tissue or mat, said thermoplastic polymer coating further comprising a

mineral filler to create a non-smooth, roller paintable outer surface on the outer side of the non-woven fiber tissue or mat.